

January 12, 1998. The report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention is also transmitted for the information of the Senate.

In recent years, we have witnessed an unprecedented and intolerable increase in acts of terrorism involving bombings in public places in various parts of the world. The United States initiated the negotiation of this convention in the aftermath of the June 1996 bombing attack on U.S. military personnel in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, in which 17 U.S. Air Force personnel were killed as the result of a truck bombing. That attack followed other terrorist attacks including poison gas attacks in Tokyo's subways; bombing attacks by HAMAS in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem; and a bombing attack by the IRA in Manchester, England. Last year's terrorist attacks upon United States embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam are recent examples of such bombings, and no country or region is exempt from the human tragedy and immense costs that result from such criminal acts. Although the penal codes of most states contain provisions proscribing these kinds of attacks, this Convention provides, for the first time, an international framework for cooperation among states directed toward prevention of such incidents and ensuing punishment of offenders, wherever found.

In essence, the Convention imposes binding legal obligations upon States Parties either to submit for prosecution or to extradite any person within their jurisdiction who commits an offense as defined in Article 2, attempts to commit such an act, participates as an accomplice, organizes or directs others to commit such an offense, or in any other way contributes to the commission of an offense by a group of persons acting with a common purpose. A State Party is subject to these obligations without regard to the place where the alleged act covered by Article 2 took place.

Article 2 of the Convention declares that any person commits an offense within the meaning of the Convention if that person unlawfully and intentionally delivers, places, discharges or detonates an explosive or other lethal device in, into or against a place of public use, a state or government facility, a public transportation system, or an infrastructure facility, with the intent (a) to cause death or serious bodily injury or (b) cause extensive destruction of such a place, facility or system, where such destruction results in or is likely to result in major economic loss. States Parties to the Convention will also be obligated to provide one another legal assistance in investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings brought in respect of the offenses set forth in Article 2.

The recommended legislation necessary to implement the Convention will be submitted to the Congress separately.

This Convention is a vitally important new element in the campaign

against the scourge of international terrorism. I hope that all states will become Parties to this Convention, and that it will be applied universally. I recommend, therefore, that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Convention, subject to the understandings and reservation that are described in the accompanying State Department report.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 8, 1999.

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Dominican Republic for the Return of Stolen or Embezzled Vehicles, with Annexes, signed at Santo Domingo on April 30, 1996. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of stolen vehicles treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to eliminate the difficulties faced by owners of vehicles that have been stolen and transported across international borders. When it enters into force, it will be an effective tool to facilitate the return of U.S. vehicles that have been stolen or embezzled and taken to the Dominican Republic.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, with Annexes, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 8, 1999.

TO INCREASE LEAVE TIME FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEE ORGAN DONORS

Mr. BROWNBAC. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 264, H.R. 457.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 457) to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase the amount of leave time available to a Federal employee in any year in connection with serving as an organ donor, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWNBAC. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 457) was considered read the third time and passed.

VETERANS BENEFITS ACT OF 1999

Mr. BROWNBAC. I ask that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 230, S. 1076.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1076) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, to enhance programs providing health care, education, and other benefits for veterans, to authorize major medical facility projects, to reform eligibility for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Benefits Act of 1999".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—MEDICAL CARE

Subtitle A—Long-Term Care

Sec. 101. Adult day health care.

Sec. 102. In-home respite care services.

Subtitle B—Management of Medical Facilities and Property

Sec. 111. Enhanced-use lease authority.

Sec. 112. Designation of hospital bed replacement building at Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Reno, Nevada, after Jack Streeter.

Subtitle C—Homeless Veterans

Sec. 121. Extension of program of housing assistance for homeless veterans.

Sec. 122. Homeless veterans comprehensive service programs.

Sec. 123. Authorizations of appropriations for homeless veterans' reintegration projects.

Sec. 124. Report on implementation of General Accounting Office recommendations regarding performance measures.

Subtitle D—Other Health Care Provisions

Sec. 131. Emergency health care in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for enrolled veterans.

Sec. 132. Improvement of specialized mental health services for veterans.

Sec. 133. Treatment and services for drug or alcohol dependency.

Sec. 134. Allocation to Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities of amounts in Medical Care Collections Fund.

Sec. 135. Extension of certain Persian Gulf War authorities.

Sec. 136. Report on coordination of procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

Sec. 137. Reimbursement of medical expenses of veterans located in Alaska.

Sec. 138. Repeal of four-year limitation on terms of Under Secretary for Health and Under Secretary for Benefits.

Subtitle E—Major Medical Facility Projects Construction Authorization

Sec. 141. Authorization of major medical facility projects.

TITLE II—BENEFITS MATTERS

Sec. 201. Payment rate of certain burial benefits for certain Filipino veterans.